



# MIKE DEWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



## PATRIOT PROGRAM RESOURCES

### FOR ACTIVE MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is committed to protecting the families of our nation's veterans and military personnel.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office is proud to offer the Patriot Program to veterans, active duty military, Guard and Reserve personnel.

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION



The Consumer Protection Section provides information to enable active duty personnel and veterans to better protect themselves from consumer scams. Our office can assist those who may have fallen victim to scams, such as those targeting debt collection, the elderly, credit repair, and foreclosure assistance.

#### CIVIL RIGHTS



Ohio civil rights laws protect active duty personnel and veterans from discrimination based on military status in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Additionally, should a veteran need the use of an animal assistant due to a disability, Ohio law generally prohibits denying the use of that animal assistant in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

#### LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE DUTY & MOBILIZED MILITARY



The Ohio Attorney General's Office provides pro bono (free) legal services for various legal issues, such as the Service Members Civil Relief Act and the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act of 1994. Legal assistance can also aid members in creating wills and powers of attorney. These legal services are provided to active duty and mobilized military personnel and their families.

## IDENTITY THEFT



Identity theft is commonly reported by service members before, during, and after deployment. The Attorney General's Office houses an Identity Theft Unit which can assist active duty military, veterans, and their families if they have fallen victim to identity theft. The unit can assist working with credit reporting agencies, creditors, collectors, and other entities. Service members can also place an "Active Duty Alert" on their credit report to reduce the risk of identity theft.

## CHARITABLE



Because we know that many citizens financially contribute to organizations that provide support to veterans out of a sense of appreciation for their services, our office is vigilant in prosecuting con-artists who attempt to run veteran charity scams. The Ohio Attorney General's office is the regulating entity for all charities in the state. Research charities before making donations to ensure that the charity is a valid organization. If service members wish to start a charity of any sort, our office can provide information on how to begin and how to register.

## COLLECTIONS



The Ohio Attorney General's Office is required by statute to collect debts owed to state agencies, including state universities and hospitals. If attempts are being made to collect debts you owe to state agencies while you are on active duty, our office will work with you or your spouse to create a payment plan that won't burden you or your family.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES



Aside from direct services, our office can also assist service members by providing information regarding additional resources that may be available. For example, if service members have questions regarding payment of Ohio income taxes while on active duty, they can contact our office and we can provide resources for locating that information. If service members have questions about utility payments and/or shut off, our office can provide information regarding the law and helpful resources as well.

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If you have questions about any of the services the Patriot Program can provide, or if you would like a copy of the Ohio Attorney General's Resource Guide for Veterans and Military Personnel, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ServicesforVeterans](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ServicesforVeterans) or call 800-282-0515.



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